RG104 E-1 Box 173

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., November 25, 1891.

The Superintendent, U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Colonel:

I am sorry that Mr. Barber is so sensitive about the criticism in Harper's. My calling attention to it was merely a joke. I always like to read the mean things ~~the~~ people have to say about me. Please say to Mr. Barber that it has not made the slightest impression upon me, and I have no intention of deviating in any way from the conclusion which we reached in regard to the coins.

Aside from this criticism, which is unworthy of consideration, there is one suggestion which I have made a number of times to Mr. Barber, which I think would obviate very largely some very kindly but just criticisms which have been made by our friends in regard to the new coins, that is that the lines of the mouth be softened a little, and the neck be made a little more feminine. When I last saw Mr. Barber I made this suggestion to him and told him that I should not refer again to the subject. He promised me then that he would do as I suggested. I think it would improve the face slightly; but, as I said, then I leave the matter entirely with him, and will be perfectly satisfied with his conclusion. If he can, without any great inconvenience, and without delaying the preparation of the dies, soften the lines of the mouth slightly, and make the neck a little more feminine by a slight

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curve in the back, I think he will reflect greater credit upon himself and entitle the coins to a more welcome reception.

This need not be a matter of any further correspondence. As I have said, I do not insist upon it. I simply mention it at this time because this subject of new designs is before me, and I have not learned that he has made any change in this respect.

Very respectfully,

E. O. Leech

Director.

Tell Barber I had the coins at the Chamber of Commerce banquet and a collector of present European silver coins, and the publish was very favorable to our new coin. — So much so that the N.Y. Times published a very nice editorial last Saturday on the subject. EOL

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Relative to the new coins.
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NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 173

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